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**Not for release – Embargoed until 17 March 2008**

## **CordLife Opens New India Cord Blood Facility**

### **Key Points:**

- CordLife received Cord Blood Banking licence from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), a department within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India, for its state-of-the-art processing and storage facility in India
- Licence allows for cord blood collection in all Indian states and cities
- CordLife’s facility, located in Kolkata, West Bengal, is the only such facility in Eastern region of India with estimated annual births of over 5.8 million
- Extensive marketing and distribution network has been established to realise the strong potential for revenue growth within India
- Launch of cord blood banking services to customers from 25 March 2008

17<sup>th</sup> March 2008 – Leading cord blood banking company, CordLife Ltd (ASX: CBB), received official licence from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), a department within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India, for its new, state-of-the-art cord blood tissue processing and storage facility in Kolkata.

The facility is designed, custom-built and operated by CordLife Sciences (India) Pvt Ltd, a majority owned subsidiary of CordLife Ltd, with its Indian equity partner, Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals Ltd. It is the first foreign cord blood bank in India and the fifth facility added to CordLife’s extensive network of facilities located in Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

“The facility was built with strict standards drawn from the group experience which has achieved numerous international quality marks and accreditations such as the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Singapore Ministry of Health and ISO 9001:2000. Receiving this licence from the Indian government is a testament to our commitment in bringing the highest quality service to support stem cell therapies for all clients.” said Steven Fang, Group CEO of CordLife Ltd.

The new facility is built on 19,000 square feet land situated in the outskirts of Kolkata. It is an advanced tissue facility with storage capacity for more than 40,000 cord blood units, scalable up to 150,000 units. Commencement of sales and marketing activities of its cord blood banking services will take place in one week’s time.

“We are very pleased to be the first and only licensed cord blood bank in the state of West Bengal to efficiently serve families in the Eastern region states. We will start off by



concentrating our resources in the Eastern region but we will eventually expand our presence in all metro cities and major Indian states. We have plans to build a similar facility in other states to meet growing demands.” said Steven Fang. “With a projected annual birth of 24 million, one of the highest in the world and burgeoning upper middle class consumers, the Indian market draws parallel to the cord blood banking industry in China. Prior to receiving the licence, our team in India has established extensive marketing and distribution networks through key hospitals and leading obstetricians in the territory. We will be leveraging on the extensive networks of our local partner, Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals to expand this network.”

There are approximately 5.8 million births in the Eastern region of India, of which about 1.8 million of the babies are delivered in West Bengal alone, 44 times that of Singapore, and over 6 times more than the live births in Australia. As the only cord blood bank in West Bengal, CordLife India provides families in the Eastern region states, the convenience of banking their baby’s cord blood near their homes. Currently in Singapore, approximately 18% of parents chose to store their baby’s umbilical cord blood privately.

“Quote from Strassenburg,” said Meghnath Roy Chowdhury, Managing Director of CordLife Sciences (India) Pvt Ltd.

#### **About Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals**

Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals Ltd. was set up in 1987 by a Kolkata based business group having interests in metal packaging materials, glass containers and PET bottles. Today, the Company is recognised as one of the leading pharmaceutical houses in Eastern India. The company operates a GMP-certified plant with state-of-the-art manufacturing capability and the latest quality assurance methodology, situated in Kolkata. Strassenburg has an extensive marketing and distribution network in the territory.

#### **About CordLife**

CordLife is a regional cord blood bank that operates the world’s largest network of cord blood banks with full processing and cryopreservation storage facilities in Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and India as well as marketing operations in Macau, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The first cord blood bank to be set up in Singapore, and among the first in Asia, CordLife’s state-of-the-art facility is the first and only private cord blood bank in Southeast Asia to be accredited by AABB. CordLife is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, under the symbol, CBB. For more information, please visit [www.cordlife.com](http://www.cordlife.com).

#### **About American Association of Blood Banks (AABB)**

AABB is an international association representing individuals and institutions involved in activities related to transfusion and cellular therapies, including transplantation medicine. AABB member facilities are responsible for collecting virtually all of the nation’s blood supply and transfusing more than 80 percent of all blood and blood components used in the United States. Since its inception in 1947, AABB — formerly known as the [American Association of Blood Banks](http://www.aabb.org) — has continued to support the highest standards of medical, technical and administrative performance; scientific investigation; and clinical application through standard setting, accreditation, education, advocacy and other activities. The association is also dedicated to increasing public awareness of the importance of voluntary blood donation. For more information, please visit [www.aabb.org](http://www.aabb.org).



**About Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)**

The TGA carries out a range of assessment and monitoring activities to ensure therapeutic goods available in Australia are of an acceptable standard with the aim of ensuring that the Australian community has access, within a reasonable time, to therapeutic advances. For more information, please visit [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

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